

Appl. No. 10/627,029
Amdt dated Feb.16, 2006
Reply to Office action dated Dec. 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification:

- 1) Initial paragraph suggested by the Examiner has been substituted for the initial paragraph submitted in the preliminary amendment dated July 24, 2003;
- 2) Section headings have been added as requested by the Examiner;
- 3) Paragraphs [0002], [0009], and [0017] have been amended to correct typographical errors and minor editorial problems.

In the claims:

- 1) Claims 7, 25, 26 have been cancelled;
- 2) Claim 24 has been redrafted in an independent form.

Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the rejections based on double patenting, in order to expedite prosecution, a terminal disclaimer is attached with respect to the double patenting rejection of claims 7-13 (§7 of the Office Action) and 14-23 (§8 of the Office Action).

The objection of Claim 24 is thus also made moot.

All of the objections/rejections presented in the Office Action of May 30, 2003, have hereby been fully obviated/traversed, and can thus be withdrawn. Action to this end is respectfully requested so that claims 8 through 24 may then all be allowed and this case passed to issue. If there are any

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questions, or if prosecution can be expedited in any manner by a telephonic conference, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-printed telephone number

It is believed that a fee is due in connection with the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer under 37 CFR §1.20(d) . Applicants hereby provides authorization to charge deposit account number 03-2316 for such fees.

Respectfully submitted,

February 16, 2006
Dated

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